

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons which follow.

I. Introduction

Claims 1-15 are pending. Claims 1-7 have been withdrawn from consideration as non-elected subject matter. Applicants have amended the specification to claim a priority to prior applications, Serial Nos. 08/915,366, 08/702,232, 08/655,223, and 08/485,323, under 35 U.S.C. 120. An executed new oath and declaration will be followed to perfect the priority claim.

II. Rejection based on 35 USC §102(b) or §102(e)

The examiner has rejected claims 8-15 as anticipated by WO 96/40116 to Tang *et al.* ("Tang") under 35 USC §102(b) or by U.S. Patent No. 5,840,745 to Buzzetti *et al.* ("Buzzetti") under 35 USC §102(e). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Tang was published December 19, 1996 and Buzzetti has a nominal priority date of September 25, 1996, under section 102(e), both of which are subsequent to the June 7, 1995 priority date of the instant application. Thus, by virtue of the priority date of the current application, as amended herein, neither Tang nor Buzzetti is available as a prior art reference. Applicants therefore respectfully request withdrawal of the anticipation rejection based on Tang or Buzzetti.

In view of the foregoing, applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

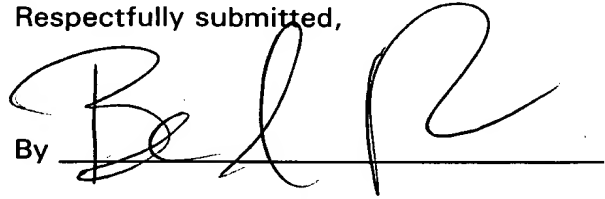
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FOLEY & LARDNER
Washington Harbour
3000 K Street, N.W., Suite 500
Washington, D.C. 20007-5109
Telephone: (202) 672-5475
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

Respectfully submitted,

By



Beth A. Burrous
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 35,087